



TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
Chairman

RICHARD J. CLEARY
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO
MICHAEL D. VARNEY
JOSEPH E. WEHR

BUDGET DELIBERATIONS TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: R. Clements-Chairman, R. Cleary, M. Joyse, B. Pinto, M. Varney, J. Wehr

Others Present: N. DiCorleto-Fin Officer, M. Stupinski-First Selectman, P. Potamianos-Budget Advisory, A. Littizzio-BOE Dir Bus Svs, D. Roberson-Chmn BOE, Selectmen J. Turner, L. Burstein, A. Harford, P. Charter, EVAC President P. Hany, G. Fetko-DPW Dir, A. Lawrence-Fire Marshal, D. Davis-Dir OEM, D. Crayton-Human Svs Director, E. Graziani-Senior Center Dir, Sgt. Konieczny, G. Feldman-EVFD, Residents

Call to Order

Chairman Robert Clements opened the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Citizens' Forum

Lisa Sirag, 4 Rothe Lane asked that the Board of Finance be gentle on the school budget.

William Merson, 13 Aborn Rd asked that the Crystal Lake Milfoil Removal remain in the budget. He stated that it is a necessary item to keep Crystal Lake the recreational resource it is.

Deliberations

Chairman Robert Clements read the State of CT's most recent appropriations committee impact on revenues for Ellington. There is a decrease of \$20,853 in Pequot/Mohegan Funds and an increase of \$27,311 in Town Road Aid which leaves a net increase of \$6,458 in State revenue.

The First Selectman proposed to move the pay increases to the salary adjustment account. The Board of Selectmen is still negotiating with the unions. The General Government figure is \$80,301. He is also proposing to reduce the overtime accounts by 80% and move the 20% into the salary adjust account for unavoidable overtime. The department heads would need approval for any overtime. He is proposing to reduce \$10,000 from Hall Memorial Library. With the Parks & Recreation Commission staying in their present location, there is no need for additional secretarial staff, so with benefits and taxes the reduction for this item is \$80,739.

The Senior Center additional van driver hours were cut back for a reduction of \$6,335 and the actual MERF percentage came in under what was originally budgeted for a reduction of \$17,376.

He is also proposing reducing \$10,000 from the operating budget for the Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse.

Mr. Potamianos, Budget Advisory, asked that only if the unions agree to forego pay increases, the budget will be reduced by the salary figure. He was told that he has correct.

Capital Improvements

\$150,000 was added back to Unimproved Road Improvement and \$250,000 deducted from Open Space for a net reduction of \$100,000. The balance in this account for 08-09 was questioned and the DPW Director stated that the balance would be expended this spring.

The Road Overlay account was reduced by \$100,000. The Town Hall Annex Vault, Park Upgrades, Police Cruiser and EVFD Hydraulic Rescue Tools have been deferred. The Old Crystal Lake School Rehabilitation was reduced to \$80,000. The net effect for the Capital Non-Recurring Fund is a reduction of \$567,655.

Mark Joyse asked about the Road Overlay and LOCIP funds for 2008-09. Peter Charter told the Board that Mr. Michaud told him that projects were deferred to this spring because the price of asphalt was high last fall. George Fetko, DPW Director told them that the price of asphalt is connected to the price of oil which was very high last fall. Work is scheduled for this spring.

Mr. Joyse asked how the Town can add anything when the salaries are being eliminated and asked if the Town Wide Sidewalk Fund should be reduced or eliminated. Mr. Stupinski stated that sidewalks are a safety issue. Mr. Joyse would like to see the remaining \$80,000 for the Old Crystal Lake Schoolhouse Rehabilitation eliminated and no additional work done on it this budget year.

Mr. Joyse then proposed taking out the Police Cruiser, Board of Education Van, EVFD Hydraulic Tools and adding back the CLFD Hydraulic Tools for a total of \$184,000 and doing a lease/purchase over 5 years. He estimated the cost per year to be \$37,000.

MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (WEHR) AND DEFEATED TO BUNDLE THE POLICE CRUISER \$40,000, BOE VAN \$24,000, EVFD HYDRAULIC EQUIPMENT \$80,000 AND CLFD HYDRAULIC EQUIPMENT \$40,000 FOR A TOTAL OF \$184,000 FOR FY 2009-10 OUT OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET AND PURCHASE THEM THROUGH A 5 YEAR LEASE AT APPROXIMATELY \$37,000/YEAR.

VOTE: AYES: JOYSE

NAYS: CLEMENTS, CLEARY, PINTO, VARNEY, WEHR

Mr. Littizzio stated that the manufacturers of the vans do not lease these vehicles because the Board of Education has to modify them for their use. Sergeant Konieczny stated the same for the cruiser. Cruisers and vans only last 5-6 years.

MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (WEHR) AND APPROVED TO REDUCE THE TOWN WIDE SIDEWALK BUDGET FOR 2009-10 BY \$60,000. PINTO VOTED NAY

Ann Harford stated that there were sidewalk safety issues on Maple Street from the High School to Route 83 and from the Town Center to the Library. The First Selectman has also received suggestions from residents for sidewalks in front of the Crystal Lake School to Route 140 and from the Five Corners area to Abbott Rd.

MOVED (PINTO) SECONDED (CLEARY) TO REINSTATE \$30,000 INTO THE TOWN WIDE SIDEWALK FUND FOR FY 2009.10.

The Board asked that the DPW Director get estimated costs for the sidewalk installations in the town center, specifically the High School to Route 83 and Center of Town to Library.

MOTION WITHDRAWN PENDING COST REPORT FROM THE DPW DIRECTOR.

MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (WEHR) AND DEFEATED TO REDUCE THE OLD CRYSTAL LAKE SCHOOLHOUSE BY \$80,000 FOR FY 2009-10 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS BUDGET.

Mr. Wehr felt it was not prudent to do half of the work. Mr. Clements felt it could be made into a meeting place for Crystal Lake residents with this funding. The First Selectman has looked into leasing space at Meadowview Plaza and was quoted \$25,000/yr for 1,700 ft plus cost of renovation.

VOTE: AYES: CLEARY, CLEMENTS, PINTO

NAYS: JOYSE, VARNEY, WEHR

DEFEATED BY TIE VOTE.

MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (VARNEY) AND PASSED TO REDUCE UNIMPROVED ROAD IMPROVEMENT BY \$50,000 FOR FY 2009-10 BUDGET.

VOTE: AYES: PINTO, WEHR, JOYCE, VARNEY

NAYS: CLEMENTS, CLEARY

MOVED (WEHR) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND DEFEATED TO REDUCE THE ROAD OVERLAY ACCOUNT TO \$250,000 FOR FY 2009-10.

VOTE: AYES: JOYSE, WEHR

NAYS: CLEMENTS, PINTO, VARNEY, CLEARY

Rick Cleary asked the Board if they felt a moratorium on Professional Development and Seminars should be in order this budget year and the Board agreed. The Finance Officer will compile a total figure for all departments for Thursday's deliberation. Mr. Cleary also asked about the \$1,200 figure in the Tax Collector's budget to go the bank. Mr. DiCorleto told him that they are required to go every day. He also felt that \$10,000 should be reduced from Building Demolition account. He asked about the 1090 GIS account funding and the Revaluation. Nick will check with the Assessor to see when the funds are due to be expended. He stated that the State's flyover for the GIS was delayed.

Mr. Cleary also asked what the Board felt should be funded in account 1025 Ad Hoc Graduation Party. Mr. Clements felt that it should not be funded at all. He felt that the Graduation Committee should budget the party according to the funds received.

MOVED (CLEARY) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO REDUCE THE AD HOC GRADUATION PARTY BUDGET TO \$2,500 FOR FY 2009-10. CLEMENTS VOTED NAY.

Mr. Pinto asked about the heating fuel price of \$2.59/gallon in the budget. Mr. Littizzio stated that the market price today is \$1.75 and he will be meeting with the Public Works Director to lock in a price. They will have a figure for the Thursday meeting. It was decided that \$2/gallon would be put into the budget and the finance officer will change the figures in the tables for Thursday.

Mr. Varney told the Board that he had spoken to the vendor for the fire truck that the department will be lease/purchasing. They will hold the bid price for another 100 days. This way the lease can be finalized in FY2009-10 and the first payment will be made in budget year 2010-11. The first payment as shown in this budget can be eliminated.

MOVED (VARNEY) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REDUCE ACCOUNT 910 BY \$191,697 FOR FY 2009-10 TO REFLECT THE DEFERRAL OF THE FIRST PAYMENT ON THE FIRE TRUCK TO FY 2010-11.

Mr. Varney asked about Mr. Miller's memo regarding reducing funds from the 950 Insurance Account. He would like to see \$150,000 reduced from this account. The Finance Officer based this figure on a 20% increase received from the carrier. He budgets for 73 employees, some retirees as well as for unforeseen circumstances such as employees on their spouses insurance changing over to the Town and people getting married, which requires additional coverage. He stated it is up to the Board of Finance on what they would like to do.

It was decided that Mr. DiCorleto will determine what a 16% increase would be, and Mr. Wehr will bring forward Mr. Varney's motion on Thursday night in his absence.

Mr. Joyse asked why the salaries were not completely cut out of the budget, and Mr. Clements told him that if they are completely taken out, layoffs will have to occur. Mr. Stupinski stated that by moving them to the salary adjustment account he can reduce by a lump sum rather than from every department.

Mr. Joyse then figured out what the FICA taxes would be for the increases and made the following motions:

MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (WEHR) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO REDUCE THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT SALARY INCREASES BY DEPARTMENT FOR FY 2009-10 AS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED TOTALING \$86,444 WHICH INCLUDES FICA TAXES.

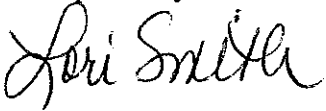
**MOVED (JOYSE) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
REDUCE THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT OVERTIME ACCOUNT FOR FY 2009-10
BY \$22,822 AS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED.**

**MOVED (VARNEY) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
REDUCE THE 410 ACCOUNT DPW OVERTIME FOR FY 2009-10 TO 188 HRS TO
REFLECT THE 10 YEAR AVERAGE.**

The Finance Officer will do the calculations for the Public Works overtime for Thursday's deliberations. Mr. Littizzio was asked to bring the exact salary figure for the Board of Education with him Thursday night.

**MOVED (CLEARY) SECONDED (PINTO) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lori Smith".

Lori Smith, Recording Secretary

Revenues/Expenditures Additions/(Reductions) FY09-10**Appropriations Committee's Proposed Budget Revenues-April 9, 2009-R**

	Budget Table	Revised	Difference
Pequot/Mohegan Funds	\$ 68,941	\$ 48,088	\$(20,853)
Town Road Aid	\$ 123,814	\$ 151,125	\$ 27,311
Net change			\$ 6,458

General Government Pay Raises by Department FY09-10

130	Finance Officer	\$ (2,605)	
131	Tax Assessor	\$ (6,031)	
132	Tax Collector	\$ (3,581)	
140	Town Clerk	\$ (3,551)	
170	Town Planner	\$ (4,298)	
210	Registrars & Electors	\$ (974)	
330	Police	\$ (2,140)	
340	Animal Control	\$ (1,903)	
360	Building Dept	\$ (1,271)	
410	General Town Roads	\$ (32,649)	
540	Parks & Recreation	\$ (1,638)	
750	Human Services	\$ (5,188)	
795	Senior Center	\$ (2,253)	\$(68,082)
1065	Transfer to Salary Adjustment Account Board of Selectmen must negotiate with unions		\$ 68,082
610	Hall Memorial Library	\$ (12,219)	
	Total	\$ (80,301)	

General Government Overtime Accounts by Department FY09-10

130	Finance Officer	\$ (3,500)	
131	Tax Assessor	\$ (2,500)	
132	Tax Collector	\$ (3,000)	
140	Town Clerk	\$ (1,000)	
170	Town Planner	\$ (3,000)	
360	Building Dept	\$ (1,000)	\$(14,000)
1065	Transfer to Salary Adjustment Account Estimate 20% of total above, to be monitored by First Selectman		\$ 2,800
610	Hall Memorial Library Need to determine if this account should be recorded as Part Time wages	\$ (10,000)	\$(10,000)

Revenues/Expenditures Additions/(Reductions) FY09-10

Human Services/Parks & Recreation FY09-10

With the Old Crystal Lake School House Renovations not completed for FY09-10
Staffing reduction can be made

750	Human Services	
	Full time Secretary reduced to part time at half the salary	
	\$30,994 to \$15,497	\$ (15,497)

540	Parks & Recreation	
	Full time Secretary reduced to part time at half the salary	
	\$30,994 to \$15,497	\$ (15,497)

Associated fringe benefit costs for these positions

930	Social Security	
	(\$30,994 @7.65%)	\$ (2,371)

950	Insurance	
	5151-Health Insurance for two	\$ (43,045)
	5154-Life Insurance for two	\$ (644)
	5156-Deferred Compensation 7.1%	\$ (2,200)
	5158-Disability Plan for two	\$ (1,392)
	Workers Comp	\$ (93)

Total for two positions	\$ (80,739)
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Senior Center FY09-10

Reduction in van driver hours

For FY08-09 hours	2,288
Proposed FY09-10 ho	3,240
Increase	952

Provide for 476 hour increase, reduction of 475 hours
475 hours @\$12.39 per hour \$ (5,885)

930	Social Security	
	(\$5,885 @7.65%)	\$ (450)

Total	\$ (6,335)
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Revenues/Expenditures Additions/(Reductions) FY09-10

MERF Pension Contributions for FY09-10

At budget time estimated contribution at 9.0% from present 7.0%
State informed town for 09-10 the contribution rate is 7.50%

950	Retirement Merf DPW	\$ (17,376)
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810-Old Crystal Lake School House FY 09-10

Reduce account due to building not completed	\$ (10,000)
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1100 CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND					
			2009-10	ADDS	2009-10
			BUDGET	(REDUCT)	FINANCE
Project Requests			REQUEST		RECOMMEND
Unimproved Road Improvement			0	150,000	150,000
Local Capital Improvement Program			106,065		106,065
Road Overlay			429,310	(100,000)	329,310
Culvert Relacements			122,000	0	122,000
Townwide Sidewalks			60,000	0	60,000
Town Hall Annex Vault-Fireproof			159,900	(159,900)	0
Old Crystal Lake School House-Rehabilitate			151,589	(71,589)	80,000
Hall Memorial Library-Storm Windows			16,000	0	16,000
Recr-Public Park Upgrades			12,900	(12,900)	0
Police Cruisers			43,266	(43,266)	0
Revaluation			150,000		150,000
Open Space Fund			250,000	(250,000)	0
Municipal land Trust Fund			0	0	0
EVAC-Defibrillators/CPR Equipment			20,000	0	20,000
EVAC-Replacement Ambulance			200,000		200,000
EVAC-Ambulance Building Equipment			45,000	0	45,000
EVFD-Hydraulic Rescue Tools			80,000	(80,000)	0
BOE-Replmnt Vans-Special Ed			24,000		24,000
BOE-EMS Replacement Dual Oil Burners			0	0	0
DEPARTMENT TOTAL			1,870,030	(567,655)	1,302,375
LESS-FEDERAL/STATE/TRUST FUNDS					
State Grant-LOCIP			106,065		106,065
Marshall E. Charter Fund			0	0	0
Ambulance Fee Program			265,000	0	265,000
TOTAL			371,065	0	371,065
NET COST TO TOWN			1,498,965	(567,655)	931,310
CAP NON REC FUND					

Amounts shown in dollars

BUDTAB10.XLS/BOFaddred09-10April2108/4/21/2009/1/1